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FlashBack



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FLASHBACK

Journal of
the Washington County Historical Society

Volume 60

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Cover: View of Oak Cemetery in Fayetteville.

(Courtesy of Tim Nutt)

Cabin Orgy Deaths—December 1936

By J.B. Hogan*

Around seven-thirty a.m. on the cold morning of December 7, 1936, John Butler, proprietor of Uncle John's Tourist Cabins on North College¹ in Fayetteville, having "failed to get an answer to his call" unlocked one of his small cabins to find a grisly scene. Five bodies littered the cabin in various stages of undress. Butler made his way past the dead "sprawled over the room" to turn off the gas stove which was still burning "three to four inches above the stove." The victims had died, authorities would determine just hours after Butler had "immediately telephoned officers," from "asphyxiation following a drinking party."²

The dead were two men and three women. The men were Bert Atkinson of Fayetteville, 41, married with four children (ages eight to fifteen), a veteran of the World War and owner of the White Swan Club,³ which the city of Fayetteville had recently tried to shut down as a "nuisance"⁴; and William "Bill" Reed of Fayetteville, 28, married (his wife was living in Bentonville) and the operator of a "four for a dime" photography gallery. The women were Mable "Esther" Todd of Huntsville, 27, married with two small children (ages two and five) but separated from her husband and living in a trailer in Fayetteville; Jewell Hudson of Fayetteville, 20 and single; and Alice Taylor of Springdale, 18 and single.

According to the *Fayetteville Daily Democrat*, the group had started drinking at Atkinson's club the night before and had picked up five bottles of beer along the way to Uncle John's Cabins. John Butler told the police "Atkinson rented the cabin between 9:30 and 10 o'clock" the previous evening. He did not check on the group again until they failed to respond to his early morning call.

*J.B. Hogan, a native of Fayetteville, is a frequent contributor to the *Flashback*. His most recent article "Early History of Fayetteville Municipal Airport," co-written with the late Kirby L. Estes, appeared in the summer 2010 issue.

The paper recounted that Deputy Sheriff Arthur Davidson, who was the “first to reach the scene,” found that the “bodies of the victims were only partially clad” and that both men “were lying on the floor.” Bert Atkinson, according to the newspaper, “apparently had attempted to reach the door and was lying on his face with head cushioned on his arm next to the door.

William Reed, the article went on, “apparently had tried to turn off the gas, and had fallen across the stove and then to the floor. His legs were badly burned. The Taylor woman had fallen on the floor and bodies of the other two women were on the two beds in the room.”

Sheriff Herbert Lewis told the newspaper that all of the victims had died of asphyxiation following a drinking party. They had succumbed, the sheriff added, “due to carbon monoxide gas after a gas stove had burned the oxygen in the tightly closed room.”

Coroner Glenn Riggs stated that “carbon monoxide poisoning” was the official cause of death and that all five of the unfortunate revelers “had been dead several hours when the bodies were found.” Moisture on the windows of the room, it was determined, “had frozen, sealing the windows

The Blue Gables Tourist Lodge



ON U. S. NO. 71, SOUTH FAYETTEVILLE, ARK.

Blue Gables Tourist Lodge, 1930s-early 1940s.
The Blue Gables is similar to the Uncle John's Tourist Cabins
where the deaths occurred.

Courtesy: Shiloh Museum of Ozark History (S-92-41-15)

CABIN ORGY DEATHS

air-tight.” No coroner’s jury had been called, the newspaper reported, because the coroner and three attending physicians had “concurred in the view that asphyxiation had caused the deaths.”

In the aftermath of the tragedy, bodies of the victims had been removed to Moore’s Funeral Home while attempts were being made to locate families of the deceased. By the next day, December 8, 1936, a headline in the *Daily Democrat* told that “Four Bodies In Tragedy Disposed Of”: only the remains of Jewel Hudson had not as yet been claimed, although it was known that she had relatives living in Fayetteville.



George Thomas Sullins, 1930s

Sullins was one of the attorneys for the plaintiffs in the case

Courtesy: Shiloh Museum of Ozark History (S-78-86-13)

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Burial details were given in the paper for each of the other persons. Services for Bert Atkinson were scheduled for Wednesday, December 9, 1936 at Moore's Chapel. Atkinson, as befit a veteran of the world war, would be buried in the National Cemetery on the south side of town. William Reed was to be buried Tuesday, December 8, in Huntsville.

Mabel Todd had been taken by her parents to Thompson and she was to be buried on Wednesday, December 9 in Pinnacle. Alice Taylor, the paper said, had been taken to Berryville for burial but that no other details were known at this time.

As shocking and scandalous as the "cabin orgy" deaths were – prohibition had been lifted only three years before and Fayetteville had only begun issuing liquor licenses the previous year (1935) – the story dropped out of the paper until the next summer when families and representatives of the victims filed wrongful death lawsuits against both John Butler, owner of the tourist cabin, and the Arkansas Western Gas company.

On July 30, 1937, the newspaper (now the *Northwest Arkansas Times*)⁵ gave details about a \$90,000 lawsuit filed on behalf of three of the "cabin orgy" dead. The lurid nature of the case was revisited by the *Times* in sensational style.

The newspaper article told how pictures "taken of the affair – which was followed by closing of the White Swan, from which place the party had left for the night in the cabin, showed one member of the party – Reed – apparently reaching his hand toward the gas heater – which was still burning – as though in a final effort to turn off the heat, before he had expired."

Attorneys for the plaintiffs in the lawsuit were Rex Perkins,⁶ Sullins and Sullins,⁷ and Carlos B. Hill.⁸ They argued that "the deaths were caused by carbon monoxide gas by reason of defective appliances and connections." The case was broken down into three parts.

An amount of \$60,000 was claimed on behalf of Bert Atkinson: \$40,000 for his four minor children and \$20,000 for his wife. Plaintiffs for Bert Atkinson were listed as "Robert Atkinson, son, et. al. by Frances Henderson Atkinson, wife, for herself and children." A \$10,000 settlement was sought by Georgia Roach, mother of Jewel Hudson, and \$20,000 for Alice Taylor by Ward C. Taylor, her adoptive father and estate administrator.



Glenn M. Riggs at Callison & Riggs Funeral Home, 1938

Courtesy: Shiloh Museum of Ozark History/
Millie Brown Collection (S-2000-102-42)

Three months later, the lawsuits were resolved. On November 2, 1937, a front page *Times* headline read "Ask Court To Instruct Jury For Defendant." Homer Pearson, representing Arkansas Western Gas and John Butler, entered a motion "for an instructed verdict"⁹ on behalf of the defendants. Arguments began at two-twenty p.m. in Circuit Court.

The list of plaintiffs had grown since the case was first introduced back on July 30 and so had the amount of money being sought in damages. The total was now \$185,000. The estate of William S. Reed was asking for \$75,000 and the estate of Mabel Todd sued for \$20,000.

Over a dozen witnesses testified on November 2, including the widows of Bert Atkinson and William Reed as well as local plumbers and gas company men. Rex Perkins, arguing for the plaintiffs, contended that "both the gas company and the operator of the tourist camp were negligent."

Homer Pearson countered that "the gas company had nothing to do with" the actual connection of gas lines at the cabins (Butler admitted to doing that work himself and without the gas company's knowledge) and that the "deaths were at the hands of a third party over which neither Uncle John nor the gas company had any control." The "means of preventing the deaths," Pearson added, "were at hand if the victims had used them."

Coroner Riggs reconfirmed that "carbon monoxide poisoning was the cause of the deaths" and he and Sheriff Lewis reiterated that they had been told by Butler that the gas flame "was burning above the top of the stove" when the victims in the "death" cabin had been found.

The next day, November 3, 1937, a final headline concerning the story read "Take Non-Suit In Damage Case." According to the *Times*, the "non-suit"¹⁰ was taken after attorneys for the defendants had argued for a directed verdict" by the unnamed judge.¹¹

Although the plaintiffs had, according to the *Times*, "one year in which to re-file the suits," they do not seem to have done so. Nothing more was found on the case in local records and the case and the scandalous tragedy upon which it was based drifted into the obscurity of distant and forgotten local history.

Endnotes

¹According to Washington County Archivist Anthony J. Wappel, Uncle John's Tourist Cabins stood approximately where Herman's Steak House does now.

²*Fayetteville Daily Democrat*, December 7, 1936. Subsequent quotations, details, and dates of the case are from the newspaper. Chronological sequencing, summary, and narrative by the author.

³The White Swan Café was located at 11 East Mountain Street just off the Fayetteville Square.

⁴The City of Fayetteville had brought a chancery suit against the White Swan in August of 1936 to shut the club down. The suit failed when it was declared “there had not been enough evidence produced in court to have the café declared a nuisance and closed.” *FDD*, December 7, 1936.

⁵The *Fayetteville Daily Democrat* became the *Northwest Arkansas Times* on July 8, 1937.

⁶Rex Perkins was one of Fayetteville’s best known defense lawyers for many decades.

⁷G. T. “Tom” Sullins and his son Paul had a law partnership from about 1935 until 1940. When Paul Sullins moved his practice to Crossett, Arkansas, Tom partnered with Rex Perkins.

⁸Carlos Hill, like Tom Sullins and Rex Perkins, practiced law in Fayetteville for many decades.

⁹An instructed or directed verdict is usually made when a judge concludes that a plaintiff “has failed to offer” a “minimum amount of evidence” to prove his or her case. It amounts to an acquittal of the defendant. See internet website <http://www.nolo.com> for a full definition of this term.

¹⁰A non-suit ruling can be given when a judge believes “there is no evidence to prove the plaintiff’s case.” After this ruling, the trial is terminated and results in “a dismissal of the plaintiff’s case and judgment for the defendant.” See internet website <http://www.legal-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com> for the full definition of this term.

¹¹John S. Combs was Circuit Court Judge in November of 1937.

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WCHS

Oak Cemetery Inventory

By Izola Preston Morgan and Gordon Morgan*

On January 5, 1875, several citizens of Washington County gave land for Oak Cemetery, including Stephen K. and Amanda Stone, Lafayette Gregg, E.D. Harn, William Story, and Judge David Walker.

Some of the people interred in Oak Cemetery were born into slavery, among them Sam Young (1828-1933) from Paris, Texas, and grandfather of Sherman Morgan and Inez McPherson. He was a member of St. James United Methodist Church. Joe Manuel, born in West Virginia in 1858, died in 1938. He was a slave of the Calberts, coming to Arkansas after the Civil War and was a member of the Masonic Lodge at St. James.

Others buried in Oak Cemetery include James Hoover (1896-1954) who has a wing at Fayetteville City Hospital, Rev. A.L. Buchanan (1883-1962) was pastor of St. James United Methodist. Otis J. Parker (1889-1976) and Ruth H. Rich (1905-1987), notable citizens of the community, are also entombed there. However, some of the headstones are broken or missing. George Ballard, poet and author of *Ozark Ballads* (1928) is likely buried in Oak Cemetery, but a stone is not present.

The cemetery is located on South Dunn Street, south of the National Cemetery.

*Gordon Morgan is University Professor in the Sociology and Criminal Justice Department at the University of Arkansas and Izola Preston Morgan is a longtime research assistant at the University.

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Name	Birth Date	Death Date
Adams, Cornelius Byrd	February 1, 1895	October 18, 1966
Allen, Norvil York	August 13, 1913	December 29, 1979
Bagsby, Veta K.	September 25, 1950	May 22, 1984
Ballard, George		
Barker, Mary Eliza	1873	1955
Barker, Sam J.	February 1, 1884	February 1, 1937
Baylor, Emma	1886	1980
Bell, Eulalia Vann	January 13, 1906	December 12, 1963
Bell, Richard C.	February 14, 1905	March 4, 1957
Berry, Julia Peel	January 10, 1882	April 22, 1961
Blackburn, Beckie	1866	1949
Blackburn, Donald Ray	June 21, 1955	September 12, 2003
Blackburn, Fred B.		October 30, 1922
Blackburn, Louise	November 13, 1913	December 3, 1993
Blackburn, Major	November 17, 1917	November 2, 1969
Blye, Pearl	March 14, 1905	February 5, 1999
Blye, Russell M.	September 20, 1903	November 7, 1979
Boner, Millie	February 1892	September 1898
Bradford, Ramon D.	July 10, 1969	December 6, 1994
Bryant, Louis M.	June 26, 1903	January 4, 1970
Buchanan, Sophronia	May 1, 1862	June 19, 1918
Buchanan, A.L., Rev.	1883	1962
Buchanan, Hazel	March 13, 1929	January 14, 1987
Buchanan, Jessie, L.	August 7, 1931	December 29, 1998
Buchanan, Leo	1907	1970
Buchanan, Lester G.	1898	1977
Buchanan, Manuel, Jr.	September 21, 1947	February 17, 2003
Buchanan, Mattie	1895	1970
Buchanan Sarah	1895	1969
Buchanan, Velma R.	July 7, 1916	February 3, 1990
Buchanan, Verna Elizabeth	1904	1983
Buchanan, Viola M.	August 16, 1911	May 29, 1993
Carr, Darius L.	October 17, 1911	September 4, 1987
Carr, Ellis Dean	February 22, 1922	May 6, 1971
Carr, Ernestine D.	February 15, 1937	August 3, 2001
Carr, Floyd R.	May 20, 1937	May 6, 1962
Carr, Jacob I.		June 18, 1937
Carr, Lola Jean	April 26, 1922	February 15, 1994
Carr, Madren O.	June 24, 1901	December 6, 1980
Carr, Olaf	1904	August 7, 1945
Carr, Roberta M.	April 28, 1922	June 12, 1995
Childress, Henry C.	June 4, 1904	February 11, 1988
Clark, Harry	May 20, 1923	February 1, 1993
Clark, Mary Ann	August 13, 1931	
Claypool, Viola	July 5, 1895	June 14, 1953
Conley, Rosie	August 10, 1914	January 18, 2007
Cook, Annie Mae	May 5, 1905	September 4, 1975
Cook, Buchanan	July 7, 1916	February 3, 1990
Cook, Nancy	September 13, 1881	October 1, 1970
Cook, William H.	October 20, 1881	February 23, 1963
Cravens, Billy Joe	October 11, 1925	June 6, 2002
Cravens, Virginia Lee	January 27, 1923	February 21, 1997

OAK CEMETERY INVENTORY

Name	Birth Date	Death Date
Dart, Lono	May 13, 1905	March 22, 1953
Deffebaugh, Kirk D., Jr.	January 24, 1975	February 25, 1997
Deffebaugh, Kirk D., Sr.		19194
Deffebaugh, Suella W.	1895	1940
Deffebaugh, Susie M.	September 28, 1897	February 19, 1974
Dennis, Alice	1917	1969
Denton, Fannie	1844	May 10, 1917
Denton, Henry	August 2, 1877	August 2, 1897
Denton, Henry	January 19, 1871	May 20, 1908
Denton, Jack	1833	1902
Denton, Leone	February 12, 1880	May 31, 1910
Denton, Ross L.	September 19, 1962	January 3, 1992
Denton, Eric E.	September 8, 1965	February 15, 1990
Dotson, Mexico	1887	1961
Dowell, Jeffie	1877	1939
Drake, Elizabeth	December 1891	November 1951
Drake, Ozell	September 7, 1897	December 21, 1935
Evans, David	1904	1944
Fisher, Gertrude		September 2, 1940
Fisher, Harrett	December 25, 1886	November 24, 1953
Gyton, Viola	1936	1990
Hall, Danielle	September 30, 1864	March 4, 1967
Hall, Mamie M.	November 11, 1911	June 18, 1986
Hall, Mary Louise	1922	1939
Hayes, Harold N.	1942	1962
Hayes, Shirley A.	1941	
Hayes, William	1939	1975
Hoover, Baby	August 15, 1928	August 18, 1928
Hoover, Francis	December 7, 1922	February 13, 1998
Hoover, James C.	July 4, 1896	December 11, 1954
Hoover, Ressie	1895	1928
Hoover, Russell Lee	1931	1999
Howell, Ethel McPherson	July 5, 1911	September 27, 1997
Jackson, Sylvester, Jr.	December 19, 1944	April 8, 2003
Jenkins, Henry	1894	1951
Jenkins, Lawrence	February 10, 1920	October 20, 1951
Joiner, Ballie	1891	1971
Joiner, Labe	1884	1954
Jordan, Bertha	December 13, 1904	February 13, 1952
Jordan, Ocie Mae	1914	1985
Jordan, W. Henry	1904	1976
Keller, Tito V.	March 30, 1977	January 17, 1995
Kidd, George	June 19, 1871	May 20, 1908
Kigan, Constance L.	12547	Jan. 27, 1981
Lackey, Catherine C.V.L.	March 25, 1931	December 2, 1971
Logan, Buford, Sr.	November 7, 1933	June 2, 2005
Logan, Mary Jane	May 16, 1929	August 19, 1991
Louis, M. Bryant	June 24, 1903	January 4, 1970
Mahon, Kenneth H.	1938	2008
Mahone, Bianca	July 7, 1990	September 26, 1990
Mahone, Curtis, PFC	February 3, 1934	July 19, 1987
Mahone, Kenneth H.	1938	2008

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Name	Birth Date	Death Date
Mahone, Mary Mae	June 11, 1942	September 10, 2002
Mahone, Sydney S.	May 11, 1992	August 29, 1992
Manuel, Chris C.	November 12, 1889	July 28, 1951
Manuel, Joe	1858	November 20, 1938
Manuel, Lola	October 8, 1889	July 6, 1969
Manuel, Susie	August 6, 1862	November 11, 1952
Mason, Gorby		September 17, 1931
Mason, Laura		August 17, 1936
Mayes, Bernice K.	November 7, 1931	December 26, 1996
Mayfield, Mabeline S.	August 13, 1927	January 12, 1978
McBride, Tonette R.	1958	2002
McConnel, Marnie	1889	1970
McKissick, Jane	1821	1901
McPherson, Oliver		June 25, 1919
McPherson, Victor	November 28, 1958	April 20, 1988
Miller, Florence	August 30, 1924	May 15, 1990
Montgomery, Glen Joyce	May 8, 1947	January 4, 1978
Moore, Henry	September 1845	March 7, 1922
Moore, James E., Sr.	June 2, 1927	December 2, 1987
Moore, Madgline	March 31, 1922	
Morgan, B.B.	1890	1919
Morgan, Bobby Lee	August 14, 1937	January 9, 1996
Morgan, Lila Mae	April 4, 1919	May 6, 1979
Morgan, N.T.		1993
Morgan Roberta M.	Oct. 29, 1937	
Morrison, Aaron	1821	October 25, 1907
Morro, Mary		November 10, 1896
Ollison, Andy J.	1881	1950
Ollison, Zetta	September 16, 1891	September 1, 1989
Parker, Anna B.	1893	1974
Parker, Isaac, Rev.	1883	1961
Parker, Otis J.	1889	1976
Parker, Rachael	March 5, 1878	December 19, 1927
Parker, S.H.	1916	1971
Payne, Tula	1913	1959
Peal, Alice	April 14, 1865	January 29, 1936
Peel, Andy	July 4, 1886	October 27, 1947
Peel, Annie	September 15, 1896	May 31, 1984
Peel, Julia Berry	January 10, 1882	Apr. 22, 1961
Pendleton, Michael A., Sr.	March 1, 1954	February 14, 1996
Pettigrew, Chester	April 9, 1886	January 19, 1900
Pettigrew, Rosetta	1844	March 13, 1917
Pettigrew, Willis		1913
Reynolds, Ada	1913	December 24, 1991
Rich, Alvin	September 11, 1909	December 19, 1974
Rich, Ruth H.	December 29, 1905	August 13, 1987
Richardson, Alfred	July 2, 1887	July 4, 1887
Richardson, David	July 2, 1887	July 2, 1887
Robinson, Mamie Hazel	July 27, 1935	May 17, 1999
Savage, Ben Franklin	February 9, 1897	November 2, 1967
Sheppard, Ide	August 14, 1878	May 22, 1974
Sheppard, Ide	September 1, 1909	December 19, 1974

OAK CEMETERY INVENTORY

Name	Birth Date	Death Date
Smith, Clara M.	May 9, 1893	March 16, 1990
Smith, Clarence	October 27, 1916	August 8, 1988
Smith, Claude G.	1930	2005
Smith, Elizabeth "Liz"	August 3, 1951	February 28, 1985
Smith, Emmitt	1878	1937
Smith, Florine	May 15, 1913	December 16, 1951
Smith, Frank Pvt.	December 9, 1895	March 11, 1948
Smith, Homer	March 15, 1894	September 3, 1989
Smith, Leon	February 12, 1917	June 25, 1969
Smith, Lucille	June 17, 1897	February 5, 1961
Smith, Margaret	December 15, 1922	
Smith, Naomi	1897	1983
Smith, Roger	1931	1931
Smith, Rowena	1931	1931
Smith, Sarah		December 1, 1909
Smith, Sophia	April 23, 1877	February 7, 1928
Spencer, Allen	February 15, 1920	June 28, 1999
Spencer, Christine	1915	2004
Steward, Grace	1904	1969
Sutton, Lucy		February 22, 1949
Taylor, James I.	January 7, 1911	August 8, 2002
Taylor, Lucille M.	November 19, 1914	July 15, 1997
Taylor, William	1845	1922
Taylor, Wm.	August 25, 1845	October 5, 1912
Thompson, Joseph B.	April 6, 1927	November 30, 1995
Thompson, Josie	February 19, 1861	August 5, 1901
Thompson, Susan K.	December 19, 1861	October 5, 1901
Torrence, Rufus J., Cpl	1924	1988
Tucker, Alice	1883	1955
Vaughn, Betsy	1898	1907
Vaughn, Estella J.	1910	1967
Vaughn, Henry	1907	1969
Vaughn, Minerva	1854	1944
Vaughn, W.D.	1854	January 28, 1915
Walker, Alice	February 15, 1890	November 27, 1921
Walker, Andrew	August 16, 1887	July 25, 1931
Walker, Ethel C.	1887	1960
Walker, Gordon (son)		
Walker, Hali Valencia	June 12, 1996	December 17, 1996
Walton, Ben	November 16, 1990	March 21, 1985
Walton, Irene	March 24, 1913	September 7, 1982
Watson, Andrea	1968	1968
Weaver, Jeff L.	April 13, 1907	May 28, 1984
Weaver, Roberta	February 1, 1924	
West, Margaret	1819	1901
West, Riley Bro.	February 28, 1910	February 9, 1992
West, The Othella	August 16, 1912	2003
White, George Lewis	June 28, 1909	August 28, 1992
White, Millie I.	November 16, 1908	July 1, 1982
Whitney, Frank	1883	1928
Wilks, Mary	September 15, 1918	October 30, 1990
Williams, Willie	1872	February 10, 1884

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Name	Birth Date	Death Date
Winn, Bessie	January 13, 1898	May 27, 1941
Woods, Alberta	1922	
Woods, Ezell	1893	1961
Wright, Harriet A.	1942	1999
Wright, Lamont	1935	
Wright, Robert Sonny	1952	2008
York, Angie	April 26, 1894	January 18, 1935
York, Ann	September 18, 1844	February 19, 1928
York, Marvine S.	1921	1987
York, Norvil Allen	August 15, 1913	December 29, 1979
York, William Nelson	September 18, 1886	December 26, 1958
Young, Ester	1889	1969
Young, Lula	August 15, 1864	August 6, 1929
Young, Martha	1832	1935
Young, Quincy	September 11, 1911	January 4, 1978
Young, Sam	1829	1933
Young, Samuel Jr.	December 20, 1864	March 8, 1950

Finding the Prize: “Family Connection” (My Journey to Become a Member of the Sons of the American Revolution)

By Raymond R. Tharp*

Panning for gold? The prize is the golden nugget. Digging for diamonds in the Arkansas Diamond Field. The prize is the brown diamond. Researching family history? The prize is making family connections. The amount of time, effort and patience you put into it, along with the help from others, will determine how successful you will be.

During a vacation to Alaska, my panning for gold did produce a few nuggets of gold, but my visit to the diamond field of Arkansas produced nothing. Of course, I did not put a lot of time, effort, or patience into those activities, so the results were limited.

But the results of research into my family history were different. Those of us who do family history research know that our ancestors left a paper trail as they moved from place to place. Our job is to find those documents so we can verify our family history. Doing this research is both exciting and frustrating, but the desired result is getting the prize, “Family Connection.”

Anyone who starts doing family research soon realizes that it is like working a jigsaw puzzle. All the pieces have to properly fit together to complete the picture. All across this land, from the Atlantic to the Pacific coastlines, state archives, libraries, and county courthouses have documents that will help a person put together a family history. These sources, along

*The author, a retired educator, is a descendant of Daniel and Susannah Wax Howry. He lives in Temple, Texas.

with the federal censuses, newspaper articles, and family stories, may have information that will help you validate your family story from yourself back through your ancestral line. But, be aware, the search is tedious and may cause some stressful moments as you seek the documents that are necessary to verify your connection from one generation to another. This was so in my journey to become a member of the Sons of the American Revolution.

My task was to document all the connections between the following family names: Raymond Roy Tharp, Raymond Mack Tharp, Edward Greenwood Tharp, John Lewis Tharp, Jesse and Eliza (Roberson) Tharp, John and Priscilla (Howry) Roberson, Daniel and Susannah (Wax) Howry, and Henry Wax, my American Revolutionary patriot. He married Margaret Geschwind.

Getting certified copies of the birth, marriage, and death records for the first three generations was quite simple. After that it became more tedious, but I pressed on to gather the documentation for the next five generations. As was expected, gathering this information was more difficult. The path was interesting even though it was cluttered with difficulties such as hard-to-read documents, spelling variations of names on census records, records being lost because of fire or floods in courthouses. Difficulties like these are disconcerting but, with patience, they can be worked through. With the availability of Ancestry.com and Heritage Quest on the Internet, searching for clues has become easier. All of this information has to be verified for correctness. You do find some errors, but also some helpful clues.

For example, in my search for the Jesse Tharp family in the censuses, I found the surname "Tharp" was transcribed as "Sharp" in the 1860 Arkansas Federal Census and "Thorp" in the 1880 Census. In the search for the John Roberson family in the censuses, I found their surname transcribed as "Robison" in the 1850 Arkansas Federal Census, "Robertson" in the 1860 Census, "Robeson" in the 1870 Census, and "Robinson" in the 1880 Census. In the 1850 Arkansas Federal Census, the surname of Daniel Howry was transcribed as "Honry"

The example given above was a minor frustration in my journey to SAR. The most frustrating part was trying to find documentation to prove that Priscilla (Howry) Roberson was the daughter of Daniel and Susannah (Wax) Howry. The census records for 1810 through 1840 could not be

used for proof because those records do not list the names of the children. No "consent form" (signed by Daniel Howry) could be found giving permission for John Roberson and Priscilla Howry to marry. A careful study of a membership application to the Daughters of the American Revolution, listing the last three generations as Andrew and Eliza (Howry) Karnes, Daniel and Susannah (Wax) Howry, and Henry Wax who was the patriot ancestor, did not produce any verifiable record that Priscilla was a daughter of Daniel Howry. Every avenue I tried failed to produce a verifying document that proved Priscilla (Howry) Roberson was the daughter of Daniel and Susannah (Wax) Howry or that Eliza (Howry) Karnes and Priscilla (Howry) Roberson were sisters. It seemed I had reached a dead end.

My wife and I visited the headquarters of the Washington County Historical Society on a trip to Arkansas. I had read in a newsletter that the Washington County Arkansas Genealogical Society had volunteers that would do some research for individuals. The cost was minimal. So I contacted them to see if they could help me in my search. They consented. So the search for the prize, "Family Connection," reached a new level. These WCAGS volunteers doing research for me in Arkansas increased the chances of finding a "connection" to prove Priscilla (Howry) Roberson was the daughter of Daniel and Susannah (Wax) Howry.

Through emails and snail mail the search was on. Various documents were found and sent to me. All had important information about the family and would be valuable in writing a family history. But a verifiable document to give solid proof of the family connection still had to be found. I was not ready to give up. I remember expressing my feelings to my contact person in WCAGS, that surely, out there somewhere, there had to be a piece of paper that would verify Priscilla Roberson and Eliza Karnes are sisters and that they were the daughters of Daniel Howry and Susannah (Wax) Howry.

We hit the jackpot. WCAGS sent me a packet of materials with information about my family. In that packet was an obituary from the *Fayetteville Weekly Democrat*, dated 1884, for James Moorman Howry. It said:

"Judge J.M. Howry, a distinguished citizen of Mississippi, and well known by many of the citizens in this county, died at his home in Oxford on

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the 15th inst. Judge Howry was a brother of Mrs. Eliza Karnes and the late Mrs. Priscilla Roberson, of this county, and also a kinsman of our fellow-townsmen, Squire Chas. S. Hauptman.”¹

This obituary became an important document for it proved that Mrs. Eliza Karnes and Mrs. Priscilla Roberson were sisters. The approved DAR application #570615 lists Eliza Howry as the wife of Andrew Karnes and the daughter of Daniel and Susannah (Wax) Howry. Since Eliza and Priscilla were sisters, this would indicate that Priscilla was also the daughter of Daniel and Susannah (Wax) Howry.

Knowing that James Moorman Howry was the brother of Eliza and Priscilla, I immediately did research on him to see what information I could find that would give more information about his family. I found a message that had been posted on Rootsweb that stated every Howry needed to read the 300-page handwritten history that L.B. Howry had written.

So I contacted the gentleman who posted the message. I received a letter from his wife who stated that he had passed away and the Howry family history had been given to a daughter. After contacting the daughter, she sent me several pages of the handwritten history concerning Daniel Howry and his son James Moorman Howry, and a copy of a letter written by Lucien B. Howry to his uncle Hershel Howry, dated September 22, 1930. In the letter the author stated that a biography of James Moorman Howry was in Rossiter Johnson's twentieth century *Biographical Dictionary of America*.

That biography stated:

“Howry, James Moorman, jurist, was born in Botetourt county, Va. Aug. 4, 1804; son of the Rev. Daniel and Fredrica (Wax) Howry.”²

L.B. Howry said the information was provided by his grandfather or father. Knowing that Rev. Daniel and Susannah Fredrica (Wax) Howry were the parents of James Moorman Howry adds valuable information to that which we have from the obituary of Judge Howry. It ties the family together.

Another document sent by WCAGS was a handwritten copy of the Daniel Howry Family found in the Karnes Family Bible. It read:

"Daniel Howry
Susannah Wax

Eliza Howry
James Moorman Howry
Priscilla Howry"³

Indeed, the obituary of James Moorman Howry found in the 1884 *Fayetteville Weekly Democrat*, the copy of the Daniel Howry family record found in the Karnes family Bible, and the information in the James Moorman Howry biography published by the American Biographical Society proves that Priscilla (Howry) Roberson is the daughter of Daniel and Susannah Fredrica (Wax) Howry. The prize "Family Connection" had been found.

Bibliography

¹*Fayetteville Weekly Democrat*, April 24, 1884

²Rossiter Johnson. *Biographical Dictionary of America* (Boston: American Biographical Society, 1906.

³Howry Family Record found in the Karnes Family Bible.

Membership Application Form

Washington County Historical Society

118 E. Dickson Street

Fayetteville, Arkansas 72701

(479) 521-2970

info@washcohistoricalsociety.org

<http://www.washcohistoricalsociety.org>

☐ New Member

☐ Renewal

☐ \$15 Senior, student, public libraries

☐ \$25 General

☐ \$50 Trail Blazer

☐ \$100 Explorer

☐ \$250 Wagon Master

☐ \$500 Pioneer

☐ \$1,000 Statesman

☐ \$5,000 Empire Builder



Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

☐ I would like to learn more about volunteer opportunities at WCHS

WCHS is a 501c(3) nonprofit corporation. The portion of the membership above \$25 is tax deductible. The membership will run for a full 12 months beginning in the month following the month membership is received.

Souvenir History of Baum & Bro.*



*Leopold, Joseph, and Moses Baum arrived in Fayetteville in 1865 and established their store on the east side of the square. Reprinted from the holdings of the Special Collections Department, University of Arkansas Libraries

ark-co
HF
5465
U64
B38
1895

Dry Goods

DRESS GOODS, FANCY GOODS, GLOVES,
LADIES' AND CHILDREN'S FURNISHINGS. . . .

All new and strictly up to date. The finest selection of fashionable goods ever brought to Fayetteville, Ark. We have always been recognized as the leaders of styles and low prices, and we invite your most critical inspection.

Cloaks and Wraps = = =

FOR LADIES AND CHILDREN.

We call your especial attention to this department. We carry an enormous stock of the latest foreign and domestic novelties, correct in style and made of all the newest and most popular materials.



. . . . Prices are low, quality considered.



A Souvenir History of Baum & Bros.

The Leading General Merchants
of Fayetteville, Ark.



IN the days when the "Arkansas Traveler" was melodiously sounding the everlasting fame of the new State in the southwest, and when Fayetteville was but a strong and lusty infant, three

brothers—Joseph, Leopold E. and Moses Baum—formed a partnership under the name of Baum & Bros. for the sale of general merchandise to the wide-awake pioneers who had braved the hardships of a wild country, and caused it to blossom as the rose.

The first location was just around the corner from the present store, and was in fact an old one-story blacksmith shop which they bought from Stephen K. Stone, and refitted into a store. This was in the year 1865.

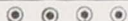
Baum & Bros. put in a varied stock of necessities, and business was soon thriving. For several years this little store was the headquarters for the trade for the surrounding country, and the enterprising firm here laid the corner-stone of their success by honorable and fair dealing, full weight, good measure and best goods.



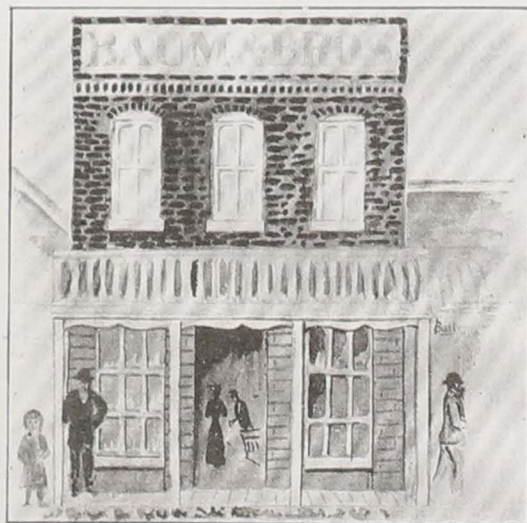
Carpets . .



Rugs, Mattings,
Draperies,
Curtains, Shades
and Portieres . . .



❖ WE have stocked our Carpet and Curtain Department with a fine selection of first-class goods. When you are fitting up your new home, or are refurnishing your present house, do not fail to call on us before you buy your Carpets and Shades. We have the newest designs, and prices are not what they used to be; Carpets cost little more than half what they were when you bought your Carpets in former years.



Our — Second Store.



IT soon became apparent that the little store was not large enough to accommodate our growing business, so in 1868 we erected on the

present site what was then the finest business block in Fayetteville. It was a two-story brick store, thirty feet front and seventy-five feet deep, and our stock was enlarged accordingly. By diligent attention to the wants of the people, business continued to increase and the friends and patrons made during that time have ever since been our customers.



Clothing

... For Men and Boys.

We have been fortunate in buying Tailor-made Clothing of the most reputable kind for this season. We can fit all sorts and conditions of men—tall, short, stout, or slender—and can guarantee prices lower than you ever heard of. Our stock includes Single and Double-breasted Sack Suits, Cut-aways and Frocks, in all the fashionable all-wool fabrics:

CLAY WORSTEDS, KERSEYS, MELTONS,
CASSIMERES, CHEVIOTS, AND FANCY
... SILK AND WOOL MIXTURES.

Gentlemen are invited to make an early inspection.

Children's Suits and Pants.

We want that boy of yours. We know that he will come back year after year for everything he wears. Our assortment of Suits, Knee Pants and Shirt Waists is very complete, and will delight the mothers of boys.





Store *

Number

* Three.



IN 1875 the firm of Baum & Bros. again branched out by building on the lot adjoining another two-story brick structure, practically more than doubling the size of the store, and improving their facilities and accommodations. New departments were added, the stock being nearly doubled, and our friends showed their appreciation by continuing their generous patronage.



Men's Hats and Caps.

- * All the latest styles in Men's Hats. Our Hat
- * Department is always a center of attraction.
- * Hats for all at popular prices.



Children's Hats

- * We have all the Novelties for Boys and
- * Children. Prices way down.

Furnishing Goods

- * Nothing so improves a man's appearance as a new necktie and clean shirt.
- * We have every kind at low prices. We never knew Neckwear to be so
- * cheap. Also, a full line of Underwear, Collars and Cuffs, Negligee Shirts, Dress Shirts, Hosiery, Gloves and Jewelry. Give us a call.



The _____ Cyclone of 1880.

....

IN 1880 and 1881 two events occurred in Fayetteville which will never be forgotten. The cyclone which created

such widespread havoc paid us a visit, razed our two brick stores to the ground and made a free distribution of our merchandise over the contiguous landscape. There is no need to expatiate on this terrible calamity. It is still vivid in the memory of those who were here at the time, and has been described in detail to later arrivals.

The other event which all will remember is the hail-storm of 1881, when hail-stones as big as cannon-balls bombarded the city, battering in roofs and demolishing windows. The losses in each case were large, but our spirit of progress was still undaunted, and the energetic Baums at once made immediate arrangements to rebuild and repair.



Our Shoe Department . .

In our new store we have given increased space to this department. We have made a specialty of



**Fine
Fitting
Footwear.**

We have opened an elegant stock of good, honest Shoes for ladies and children, both high-cut and Oxfords. Our prices are always reasonable and our Shoes always reliable. We also handle the lower and cheap grades.

Our Men's Boots and Shoes...



Are made of the best material. We can fit every foot in Washington County, and we hope to do so within the next few weeks. Our Men's Custom Shoes at \$2.50 can not be excelled.





Rebuilt

After the Cyclone.



IN a few days after the cyclone, temporary quarters were ready, and not long after we completed the brick half on the southern portion of our site. By degrees our business crowded us into remodeling the whole building, and within a few years we were again occupying a fine double store, two stories in height, with the leading stock in Fayetteville. At this time, 1886, Joseph Baum retired from the firm, leaving the present members to conduct the business.



THE PRETTIEST GIRL
IN FAYETTEVILLE will tell you that the nicest and most stylish



Millinery



Our styles are as good as
▲ any Pattern Hats
▲ imported from Paris.



Can only be found at

“Baum’s”

We have all the style and taste of the greatest millinery centers of the world to supply our fine Hats. We make a specialty of

LACES,

FLOWERS,

AIGRETTES,

JET ORNAMENTS,

RIBBONS,

FANCY BUCKLES,

BABY CAPS and

CHILDREN’S TRIMMED HATS.



A complete line of fashionable shapes for trimming.





Fayetteville
Patronizes



Fayetteville
Enterprises.



BY strict attention to business
and the wants of our customers
we have made an enviable

reputation as merchants. Appreciating, as we do, that Fayetteville and Washington County people have contributed so largely to our success, we, not to be outdone, have put all our capital into Fayetteville property and enterprises, and believe in returning the benefits of such investments to the people in the quality and low prices of our goods.

Trade ran steadily along until one evening, September 25th, 1894, when a fire was discovered in our warehouse back of the store, which spread rapidly through the store building, leaving us once more without a business home, as not a wall remained standing.



Notions and Small Wares.

Here is a Department which would fill a book with the names of the different articles, and yet you need every one of them. The small prices will enable you to carry home an enormous quantity of them, each one a bargain.....

HAIR ORNAMENTS,

HAIRPINS,

CURLING IRONS,

POCKETBOOKS,

PINS,

NEEDLES and THREAD,

BELTS and BUCKLES,

CROCHET HOOKS,

THIMBLES,

BRAIDS,

KID GLOVES,

TOILET ARTICLES,

TOOTH BRUSHES,

PERFUMERIES,

TOILET SOAPS,

FANS,

STOCKING DARNERS,

HOOKS and EYES,

PENS and PENCILS,

HAIR BRUSHES,

ELASTIC,

SILK GLOVES,

DRESS SHIELDS,

SEWING SILKS,

HAND MIRRORS,

SAFETY PINS,

BUTTONS,

CLOTHES BRUSHES,

GLOVES,

HOSIERY,

CORSETS,

LACES,

COTTON GLOVES.





The _____ Fire of 1894.

• • • •

BY the prompt aid of friends and neighbors, a portion of the great stock was saved, although it was all more or less damaged, and we will ever hold

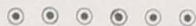
the kindness of the people in grateful remembrance for their services in such an hour. The origin of the fire is still a mystery, although opinions are held by the firm as to the responsible party. Plans were at once drawn for the erection of a modern store building on the old site, and the present structure is the result.

Valises, Traveling Bags and Trunks.



When you buy a Trunk or Valise, you want one which will give the baggageman some trouble in smashing it. We have every size in every kind.

Before you go anywhere let us fit you out.



Umbrellas and Parasols,

The finest line in all, the fashionable makes, for both ladies and gentlemen. . . We have cotton and silk UMBRELLAS, all grades and all prices, to protect you from sun or rain.

Full Line of Mackintoshes for Ladies and Men, also Rubber goods.



" 'Tis not in mortals
To command success,"
But we'll do more—
We'll deserve it.



THE grand new store
will speak for itself,
and our patrons and
friends are invited to call
and see our excellent stock
and see how low we are
selling the choicest mer-
chandise. Every feature
is strictly up to date. A
flood of light makes the
entire store bright and
cheerful, and all our goods

will stand the critical test of abundant daylight. As a safeguard and for the protection and convenience of our customers we have adopted the cash register system and have automatic bundle-carriers from all parts of the establishment. In fact, we have spared no pains, money or diligence in making our new store a model of modern department stores.

Respectfully,

Baum & Bro.



GRAND OPENING

WE realize that it is too late to have a special Grand Opening this Spring. For this we beg to apologize to the public, but we are open for business, and we sincerely hope that we may be able to make your first call so profitable and pleasing that we may be favored with your presence often afterwards. Our goods and prices speak for themselves; all we ask is that you inspect them in person.

We hope that all who receive this Souvenir will appreciate it and give it the care that it is entitled to; and when in need of anything in our line you are cordially invited to come early and often to . . .

Baum & Bro.

Fayetteville, Ark., April 20, 1895.

PLANNED GIFTS

Making charitable gifts to the Washington County Historical Society will enable it to continue and expand its programs.

If you are making regular gifts to the Washington County Historical Society or would like to start, you may find it beneficial to set up or give:

1. A **charitable lead trust** that will pay income to WCHS for a set period.
2. A **charitable remainder trust** that will allow you to transfer property to a trust set up for WCHS without paying capital gains tax on the sale of the property.
3. **Appreciated securities** at their current value and take an income tax deduction for the year up to 30% of adjusted gross income.
4. **Gifts from your retirement account** that could be an integral part of planning for those withdrawals.
5. **An irrevocable life insurance trust** that could own your life insurance, when it no longer serves its purpose, to make a charitable gift that could reduce the estate's tax bill.

There are a number of ways to enhance your retirement plans while still providing for your charitable interests and making gifts you never dreamed possible. Consult with your financial advisor on other ways you can make charitable donations. These planned gifts will provide added tax benefits for you and your heirs while helping to support the vital mission of the Washington County Historical Society for years to come.



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